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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1.   (Currently amended) A distributed processing method in which a processing task is distributed to a plurality of user terminals in a network and is executed by the user terminals, said distributed processing method comprising ~~the steps of~~ :

a server dividing a processing task into a plurality of processing units and distributing the processing units to said plurality of user terminals so that:

each of said plurality of user terminals will then be able to execute at least one distributed processing unit received from said server and send back a processing result to said server via said network; and

said user terminals will correspondingly receive a specified service as a value for executing said processing units.

2.   (Previously presented) The distributed processing method according to claim 1, wherein said specified service comprises at least one of:

to provide a license of using a user application; and

to discount a user fee charged for at least one of on-line shopping and a provider connection.

3.   (Currently amended) A distributed processing method in which a processing task is distributed to a plurality of user terminals in a network and executed by the plurality of user terminals, said distributed processing method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a collection/distribution server dividing said processing task into one or more

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processing units and distributing the units to said user terminals so that:

each user terminal of said plurality of user terminals receiving a processing

unit transmitted from said collection/distribution server via the network can execute the

processing unit under control of a license application installed in the user terminal; and

each user terminal of said plurality of user terminals can then send back a

processing result to said collection/distribution server via the network,

wherein said license application provides each said user terminal with a license for

using a user application as a value for executing said processing unit.

4.   (Previously presented) A distributed processing method for a processing task,

comprising:

a user terminal obtaining a user application and a license application from an

application server via a network;

said application server transmitting information of a user who obtained said user

application and said license application to a collection/distribution server;

said collection/distribution server accepting a request for a processing task from a

customer terminal via the network;

said collection/distribution server dividing said processing task into a form which can

be distributed and executed in a plurality of user terminals;

said collection/distribution server requesting said user terminal of executing the

divided processing task based on the user information received from said application server;

said license application executing the divided processing task requested from said

collection/distribution server by said license application on said user terminal, and sending

back a processing result to said collection/distribution server from said user terminal;

said license application providing the user terminal with a license key for said user application installed to said user terminal; and

said collection/distribution server integrating the processing results of the processing task collected from said user terminals to transmit an integrated result to said customer terminal.

5. (Original) The distributed processing method according to claim 4,

wherein said license application runs as a background processing on said user terminal.

6. (Original) The distributed processing method according to claim 5, further comprising:

said application server accounting to said collection/distribution server in accordance with a number of the license applications supplied to said user terminal.

7. (Previously presented) A distributed processing method, comprising:

a user terminal accessing an application server, which is providing a specified service, via a network, to obtain a license application;

said application server registering information of said user terminal, which is obtained by said license application, with a user database, and transmitting the information to a collection/distribution server via said network;

said collection/distribution server accepting a request for a processing task from a

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customer terminal via the network, and dividing said processing task into a form which can

be distributed and executed in a plurality of user terminals;

said collection/distribution server requesting one or more said user terminals to

execute a divided processing task based on the user information received from said

application server;

said license application executing the processing task requested by said

collection/distribution server on each of said one or more user terminals;

said license application in each of said one or more user terminals sending back a

processing result of said processing task to said collection/distribution server;

said collection/distribution server integrating the processing results of the processing

task sent back from said one or more user terminals and transmitting an integrated result to

said customer terminal;

said collection/distribution server calculating and storing points in accordance with a

processing amount for the processing task of each of said user terminals; and

said application server providing said user terminal with a service in accordance to the

points stored by said collection/distribution server when the service is requested from said

user terminal which executed said processing task.

8.   (Previously presented) A distributed processing system in which a processing task is

executed by a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

a collection/distribution server which divides a processing task requested from a

customer terminal into a plurality of processing units and distributes said processing units to

said user terminals via the network; and

an application server which supplies said user terminals with a user application and a license application in response to a request from said user terminals,

wherein the license application supplied to said user terminal allows said processing unit to be executed on said user terminal and a processing result obtained therefrom to be sent back, when said user terminal receives one or more said processing units from said collection/distribution server, said license application also provides the user terminal with a license key for using said user application.

9.   (Original) The distributed processing system according to claim 8, further comprising:

a first user database which connects to said application server and which stores user information of said user terminals, to which said application server supplied the user application and the license application,

wherein said application server notifies said collection/distribution server of the user information when storing the user information into the first database.

10.   (Previously presented) The distributed processing system according to claim 9, further comprising:

a second user database which connects to said collection/distribution server and which stores the user information received by said collection/distribution server from said application server,

wherein said collection/distribution server manages the user terminals which execute a divided processing task based on contents in said second user database.

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11.   (Original) The distributed processing system according to claim 10,

wherein the license application supplied to said user terminal requests the processing

unit to said collection/distribution server when the license application runs on said user

terminal.

12.   (Previously presented) A distributed processing system in which a processing task is

executed by a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

a collection/distribution server which divides a processing task requested into a

plurality of processing units, and which distributes the processing units to said plurality of

user terminals, and which calculates points of each of said user terminals in accordance with

a processing amount of the processing units;

a database connected to said collection/distribution server which stores said calculated

points for every user terminal;

an application server which supplies said user terminal with a license application in

response to a request from said user terminal and which provides a service in response to a

request from said user terminal; and

a plurality of the user terminals which each executes the processing unit transmitted

from said collection/distribution server,

wherein the license application supplied to said user terminal executes said processing

unit on said user terminal and sends back a processing result to said collection/distribution

server when said user terminal receives one or more said processing units from said

collection/distribution server, and

said application server provides said user terminal with a service in accordance with

points stored in said database.

13.   (Original) The distributed processing system according to claim 12,

wherein said collection/distribution server integrates and edits all the processing

results transmitted from said user terminals, and transmits the result to the customer terminal.

14.   (Previously presented) The distributed processing system according to claim 12,

said service for said user terminal of said application server comprises a discount of a

fee in accordance with said points.

15.   (Original) The distributed processing system according to claim 12,

wherein said license application runs on said user terminal as a background

processing.

16.   (Original) The distributed processing system according to claim 12,

wherein said application server charges said user terminal for an amount, which is

discounted from a service fee for said user terminal by an amount in accordance with said

point, and charges said collection/distribution server for the discounted amount.

17.   (Previously presented) A signal-bearing medium embodying a program of machine-

readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus, said program causing a

user terminal, being in a distributed processing system comprising:

a collection/distribution server;

an application server;

at least one or more user terminals; and

a network mutually connecting the foregoing,

to perform a method of distributed processing, said method comprising:

receiving a license key capable of using a specified user application from said

application server;

executing at least one or more processing units received from said

collection/distribution server on said user terminal;

sending back a result of executing said processing unit to said collection/distribution

server; and

applying said license key to said user application on said user terminal as a value for

executing said processing units.

18.   (Previously presented) A signal-bearing medium embodying a program of machine-

readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus, said program causing a

collection/distribution server, being in a distributed processing system comprising:

a collection/distribution server;

an application server;

one or more user terminals;

at least one customer terminal; and

a network mutually connecting the foregoing,

to perform a method of distributed processing, said method comprising:

receiving user information of a user terminal registered with said application server

from said application server and registering with a database;

accepting a processing task from a customer terminal and dividing the processing task into a plurality of processing units;

distributing each of said processing units to a plurality of said user terminals connected via said network;

receiving processing results, which have been processed by said user terminals, of said distributed processing units;

integrating said received results, forming a result of said processing task, and sending back the result to said customer terminal;

calculating a point value in accordance with a processing amount for the processing unit for each of said user terminals and storing said point value in the database, and

notifying said application server of the stored point value.

19.   (Previously presented) A collection/distribution server which allows a plurality of user terminals to execute a processing task in a distributed state, said collection/distribution server comprising means for:

accepting a request for a processing task from a customer terminal;

 dividing and storing the processing task accepted into a plurality of processing units;

transmitting said stored processing units to a user terminal in response to a transmission request for the processing unit transmitted from said user terminal;

receiving a processing result transmitted from said user terminal;

integrating and editing all the processing results transmitted from all of said plurality of user terminals, forming a processing result for said processing task request, and

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transmitting the result to said customer terminal;

calculating a point value in accordance with a processing amount of said user

terminal, and storing the point value for each of said user terminals; and

sending said stored point value to an application server.

20.   (Previously presented) An application server of a distributed processing system in

which a processing task received by a collection/distribution server is divided and executed in

a plurality of user terminals, said application server comprising means for:

sending a user application and a license application to a user terminal which requested

sending of an application;

registering user information of said user terminal, to which said user application and

said license application are sent, with a database, and sending said user information to said

collection/distribution server;

providing a service in accordance with a request for the service from said user

terminal;

obtaining a point value for each of said user terminals from said

collection/distribution server; and

charging said user terminal for an amount, which is discounted from a service fee for

said user by an amount in accordance with said obtained point value for each said user

terminals, and charging said collection/distribution server for the discounted amount.

21. (Previously presented) A customer terminal, comprising at least one of:

a transmitter to send a processing task request to a collection/distribution server; and

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a receiver to receive from said collection/distribution server a processing result for said processing task request,

wherein said processing task request causes said collection/distribution server:

to divide said requested processing task into a plurality of processing units;

to distribute the processing units to a plurality of user terminals connected to said collection/distribution server via a network;

to receive processing results from said plurality of user terminals;

to integrate said received processing results and form said processing result of said processing task to be sent back to said customer terminal; and

to calculate points for each of said user terminals in accordance with a processing amount of the processing units performed by said each user terminal.